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TOWCESTER RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the


Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1955



ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H



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ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1955

Area (acres)	59,005
Population 1951 (Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,410
Number of separate dwellings occupied (1931 Census)							
	Potterspury and Towcester R.Ds.						3,771
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,216
Rateable Value 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	£66,088
Product of a Penny Rate, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	£259

Live Births—					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	197	98	99	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	11	9	2	52.8
					208	107	101	14.3

Stillbirths—					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	4.78
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
					1	1	—	4.78

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	...	172	95	77	11.8
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth,								
Abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	<i>Nil.</i>

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births—								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>
Total					...	...	...	14.4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Death from Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>
Death from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>

Towcester Rural District Council

Members of the Public Health Committee :

MR. R. J. CHAPMAN, MR. T. A. MESSINGER, MR. L. R. RIVETT, MR. E. G. NICHOLLS (*Vice-Chairman*), MR. W. E. G. PAFFEY, MR. A. BOOT, MR. S. P. TYZACK, MR. W. C. TEW, MR. T. E. ENGLAND, MR. W. R. LAWRENCE, REV. A. MARCHANT, MR. T. F. KINGSTON, REV. H. P. HOSKIN (*Chairman*), MR. E. E. PALMER.

Members of the Housing Committee :

MR. P. Q. SUMNER, MR. G. E. BONSOR, MAJOR J. C. GRANT-IVES, MR. T. H. MAWLE, MR. R. L. C. RIDGWAY (*Chairman*), MRS. M. JELLEY, MR. C. E. IVENS, MR. J. T. PINKARD, MR. W. D. CHECKLEY, MRS. E. M. THACKER, MR. G. LOVELL, MR. W. T. GROOM, M.B.E., MR. H. GOODRIDGE, MAJOR W. H. C. LUDDINGTON, M.C. (*Vice-Chairman*).

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health—

ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health to
Northampton Rural District.

Brackley Rural District.

Brackley Borough.

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

School Medical Officer.

Sanitary Inspector :

DAVID JOSEPH POWELL, B.Sc., C.S.I.B.,
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

RONALD FRANK HALL, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.

Surveyor and Architect :

GEORGE BERRIDGE, M.Inst.R.A., A.I.A.A.

TOWCESTER.

August, 1956.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of Towcester.

Mr. Chairman, My Lady, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1955.

The statistics agree with the rest of the country, and there were no epidemics.

The first part of the water scheme has been in use, but there have been many complaints as to its taste and smell. This has been investigated thoroughly by Mr. Powell and myself, both by the examination of samples and contacts with the Bucks Water Board. The water was found to be free from pathological bacteria and showed no excess of any harmful chemical constituent. When the reservoir at Foxcote is in action one hopes that this will improve the palatability of the water.

Your Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Powell and Mr. Hall, have spent a large part of their time in meat inspection, and one wonders if the slaughterhouse owner should not contribute towards the costs of these inspections.

When the Food and Drugs Act comes into force we should be in a position to improve many food premises.

I must thank the Public Health Committee for their co-operation, and Mr. Powell and Mr. Hall for their help at all times in the past year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Social Conditions—The employed population is engaged mainly in agricultural work. Light iron founding and the manufacture of plastic components are carried on at Towcester, whilst oxides for pigment production are manufactured at Deanshanger. One small factory for manufacture of boots and shoes is also established in the district.

Acres—The area of the district is 59,009.

Population—The Registrar-General has estimated the resident mid-year population for 1955 to have been 14,490 persons, as compared with 14,440 for 1954. The natural increase in population, i.e., the excess of birth over deaths, amounts to 36 persons as compared with 49 for the previous year. The estimated increase in population totals 43 persons.

Deaths—The total number of deaths assigned to the district by the Registrar-General after adjustment for outward and inward transferable deaths was 172 as compared with 181 in 1954. The crude death rate based on the mid-year estimated population was 11.8 as compared with 12.4 for 1954. The following tables show the death rates for the quinquennium 1951-1955, together with corresponding rates for England and Wales and the Administrative County.

Death Rates, 1951-1955

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Towcester R.D. ...	13.47	11.8	9.9	12.5	11.8
Administrative County	12.13	11.04	11.51	11.04	11.38
England and Wales ...	12.50	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7

A list of the causes of death classified according to the Abridged List of Causes of Death as used in England and Wales is given in Table No. 1, whilst the history of rate, with other vital statistics for 1919-55, is shown in Table No. 2.

In order to make allowances for the age and sex distribution populations in different areas, the Registrar-General has calculated the area comparability factor, which, when multiplied by the local death rate, allows a truer local death rate of 9.9.

Births—The number of live births assigned to the district was 208 (107 males, 101 females) as compared with 230 in 1954, thus giving a birth rate of 14.3 per thousand of population, as compared with 15.9 for 1954, together with other rates for comparison.

Birth Rates, 1951-1955

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Towcester R.D. ...	15.73	15.11	16.7	15.9	14.3
Administrative County	15.57	15.50	16.16	16.2	15.49
England and Wales ...	15.50	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0

The local birth rate, when modified by the application of the area comparability factor of 1.09, gives an adjusted rate of 15.5 as compared with 15.0 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths—The number of stillbirths registered was 4.78 as compared with 3 in 1954. This is equivalent to a rate of 4.78 per thousand of live births, compared with 23.1 for England and Wales.

Illegitimate Birth Rate—11 illegitimate live births (9 males, 2 females) were registered as compared with 18 in 1954. This number gives a rate of 52.8 per thousand live births as compared with 78.02 in 1954.

Maternal Mortality—There were no deaths.

Infant Mortality—The number of infants who died before attaining their first birthday was 3. The rate per thousand related live births was 14.4, which is lower than the national rate of 24.9. The rates for 1951-55, together with other rates for comparison, are :

Deaths under one year per thousand Live Births					
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Towcester R.D. ...	47.80	31.9	12.4	30.4	14.4
Administrative County	25.26	24.96	24.7	23.49	20.79
England and Wales ...	29.60	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities—The bacteriological work associated with the control of infectious disease is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, whose laboratory at Northampton General Hospital is in charge of Dr. L. Hoyle. The bacteriological examination of water, milk, food and ice-cream is also carried out by Dr. Hoyle.

Diphtheria Antitoxin—Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Regional Hospital Board is now responsible for the supply of anti-toxin. Antitoxin may now be obtained by medical practitioners from Northampton General Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities—Under the scheme approved by the Minister of Health this work is carried out on an agency basis by Towcester Motor Ambulance Committee on behalf of the County Council. The ambulance is stationed at Towcester and service provided is sufficient for the needs of the district.

Hospitals—There are no hospitals in the district. Infectious disease cases which require hospital treatment are accommodated by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board at their Harborough Road Hospital, Northampton, which is under the management of the Northampton Hospital Management Committee.

National Assistance Acts—The Act of 1948 made the Council responsible for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. The Act of 1951 amended the former so that the instant removal of urgent cases could be obtained on the joint certificate of the Medical Officer of Health and a general practitioner. This procedure makes it unnecessary for an application to be made to a court of summary jurisdiction until three weeks after the removal. No action under this Act was found necessary during the year.

Under Section 50 of the principal Act the Council are responsible in certain circumstances for the burial and cremation of the body of any persons who have died or who have been found dead in the district. Two such burials were dealt with during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply—The whole of the first instalment of the Regional Scheme has been completed and is in operation. The average daily consumption of water from the scheme at the end of the year was 405,000 gallons.

Frequent sampling of this water has shewn it to be uniformly satisfactory from a bacteriological point of view, but complaints were still being received with regard to the smell and taste, mainly from the villages taking water directly from the pumping main, such as Silverstone, Greens Norton and Whittlebury. In this respect I can only repeat the information given in last year's report, namely that the water is of high bacteria quality and the organism quality is satisfactory. It is well known that earthy types of taste and odour are likely to be obtained in river waters, but it is true that at certain periods these are particularly marked in this water. There can be little doubt that the taste and odour are associated with various forms of life that are natural to river water, and leave a taste, even though the water is effectively purified so that it is practically free from colour and from matter in suspension. It is considered that the very minute traces of the substances which produce the taste and odour are harmless.

Progress on the new holding reservoir at Foxcote is well on schedule, and it is hoped that storage of water in this reservoir will help to decrease the effect of the taste and odour.

A copy of a recent analysis is reproduced below :

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance : Bright with very few particles. Microscopic examination shows particles of amorphous mineral debris.	
Turbidity : less than three	Taste : " musty, earthy "
Colour : 10	Odour : " musty, earthy "
pH : 7.5	Free Carbon Dioxide : 10
Electric Conductivity : 625	Total Solids : 420
Chlorine present as Chloride : 32	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate : 225
Hardness : Total 340 Carbonate : 225	Nitrite Nitrogen : less than 0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen : 2.4	Non-carbonate : 115
Ammoniacal Nitrogen : 0.017	Oxygen Absorbed : 1.1
Albuminoid Nitrogen : 0.12	Residual Chlorine : 0.07
Metals—Iron : less than 0.03, other metals absent.	
Anionic synthetic detergent (as Manoxol) : 0.4	

Bacteriological Results

Number of colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C 1 per ml.	2 days at 37°C 3 per ml.	3 days at 20°C 86 per ml.
Presumptive	present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Coli-aerogenes Reaction	—ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	—ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	—ml.	100 ml.	

Analyst's Observations. This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals, apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character, but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

The water is considered wholesome in character, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes apart from the obvious objection to its taste and odour.

Swimming Baths—The private pool at the Towcester Grammar School is the only one in the district that is in use to any extent, and this is fitted with a modern treatment plant. Water for refilling the pool is obtained from the Council's mains.

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage. The Regional Sewerage Scheme covering the villages of Wicken, Deanshanger, Old Stratford, Cosgrove, Potterspury and Yardley Gobion is now in full operation. At the time of writing the position in each village was as follows :

Wicken	...	...	All properties connected to sewer, but 34 pail closets still not converted to W.C's.
Deanshanger	...	...	All but four properties connected to sewer and only 9 pail closets not converted.
Old Stratford	...	...	All properties connected to sewer and all pail closets converted to W.C's.
Cosgrove	...	...	All properties connected to sewer, but 9 cottages still have pail closets.
Potterspury	...	...	All but one property connected to sewer, 32 properties still served by water closets, but among these are 16 condemned houses.
Yardley Gobion	...	...	All but two properties connected to sewer, with 13 still having pail closets, including 9 condemned properties.

The night soil collection in these villages has now ceased, and the problem of dealing with those properties where the disposal of night soil is difficult, due to the lack of ground available for burial, and where the landlord has been unwilling to convert, does in some cases require urgent consideration. Some cases will be resolved by action under the Housing Acts, and some by purchase by the Council, but unless dealt with in one of these ways I can see that it is going to be essential for such conversions to be carried out by invoking powers under the Public Health Act 1936 so as to relieve insanitary conditions.

The scheme for the provision of new disposal works to serve the parishes of Towcester and Paulerspury is awaiting the end of negotiations for the purchase of land before it can be advertised. It is expected that this will be possible very shortly. It is also gratifying to know that the scheme for the sewerage of the parish of Paulerspury is to be proceeded with after all. The conditions prevailing at the existing Towcester outfall, and at the various outfalls in Paulerspury, defy description, and in my opinion it is essential for these schemes to be completed as soon as possible.

Much preparation work has been carried out on the proposed sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Blisworth, especially with regard to the future control of trade effluent, and at the time of writing the Council await notice from the Ministry of the public hearing on this scheme.

That the Council are aware of the importance of dealing with the problems of foul drainage and its disposal in other parishes not already served by sewers, is demonstrated by the fact that these parishes have now been listed in a scheme of priority, and I trust that the Council will not relax its efforts to provide these neglected villages with satisfactory systems as soon as possible. As I have previously said, the costly and negative method of conservancy, with its difficulty of disposal, also gives rise to risk to public health, and the apparent increase in the incidence of Cysticercus Bovis (causing a tapeworm in man) found in beef carcasses is probably due to the grazing of cattle on land used for this purpose.

Public Cleansing—The night soil collection now covers all parishes not possessing an effective sewerage scheme. The work is carried out by means of two Dennis Cesspool Emptiers with special attachments. I can only add to the remarks in the proceeding section by emphasizing that transmission of disease by fly-borne infection is another public health risk to which this method of disposal is subject.

All the house refuse in the district is collected in two low loading vehicles specially designed for the purpose. The scheme of collection is as follows:

Weekly Collection :					
Old Stratford, Deanshanger	...	...	...	on Mondays	
Towcester	...	...	...	on Thursdays	
Fortnightly Collection :					
Cosgrove } Wicken }	...	...	...	on alternate Mondays	
Pattishall, Cold Higham, Litchbrough, Maidford, Adstone, Astcote, Eastcote, Gayton, Dalscote	...	...	...	on alternate Tuesdays	
Potterspury, Paulerspury, Yardley Gobion, Stoke Bruerne, Shutlanger	...	...	...	on alternate Tuesdays	
Wappenham, Abthorpe, Slapton, Braden	...	...	...	on alternate Wednesdays	
Silverstone, Whittlebury	...	...	...	on alternate Wednesdays	
Wood Burcote, Grafton Regis, Alderton Wakefield Lodge, Caldecote	...	...	...	on alternate Thursdays	
Greens Norton, Woodend, Blakesley, Weston, Plumpton, Lois Weedon	...	...	...	on alternate Fridays	
Hulcote, Tiffield, Blisworth	...	...	...	on alternate Fridays	

Tipping is carried out at Paulerspury, Gayton and Maidford. Controlled tipping is not practised, due to cost and lack of manpower, and it recently became necessary to contract for the levelling and consolidating of the Paulerspury tip by using a bulldozer. This has, however, certainly improved matters considerably, and it is now possible to keep the tip in better trim and to successfully deal with rodents.

Rodent Control. The survey and treatment of all kinds of properties for the detection and destruction of rats and mice has continued. Sewers are again being treated with zinc phosphate, while surface infestations are mainly dealt with by the use of Warfarin. The refuse tips, in particular, often need a follow up, when gassing is usually resorted to. Charge to householders is one shilling per visit, while business premises pay the cost of time and materials, plus 10% establishment charge.

Disinfection—Current and terminal disinfection of premises, together with clothing and bedding, is carried out by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants as required. In recent years current disinfection has come to play a greater part than terminal disinfection, and due mainly to the fact that food poisoning, and other food-fly-borne infections, are replacing airborne infectious diseases in frequency and severity.

Factory, Act, 1957—Under Section 123 (2) of this Act of the general provisions as to health conditions under which employees work, and a return of outworkers, has to be included in this report. Details of inspections, together with defects found and action taken thereon, are in a later table. Notifications in respect of three outworkers were received, all of which were associated with the shoe manufacturing trade. Conditions were found to be satisfactory in each case.

Moveable Dwellings—Permission under the Town and Country Planning Act has been granted for three caravan sites. One at Towcester is limited to 20 vehicles, while the two sites at Blisworth are limited to 20 and 30 vehicles respectively. The question of improving the amenities on the last mentioned two sites is now being considered, and it is hoped that proposals for this purpose will shortly be submitted.

Cinemas and Halls—The one cinema in the district was built immediately post-war and is fitted with excellent sanitary accommodation and a modern air heating and conditioning plant. It has not yet been found possible to carry out any improvement works at the Town Hall, but the sanitary accommodation there is such that I am of the opinion that the provision of satisfactory facilities is overdue. The public halls in the various parishes have almost without exception been provided with satisfactory sanitary conveniences, and in many cases with catering facilities.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

By the end of the year the Council had built and had in occupation 1,649 houses, an increase of 101 over the previous year. Eight houses were still being held under requisition by the Council as opposed to 15 in 1954. All but one of these houses are subject to confirmed Clearance Orders from which the tenants will be rehoused when accommodation is available. There are also in occupation 4 houses which the Council have purchased for the purpose of reconditioning and 2 houses purchased for demolition and redevelopment of the site. At the end of 1954 there were 8 such properties occupied and awaiting demolition, 6 of the families now having been rehoused and the houses demolished. No Clearance Orders were made during the year, but a number of properties were dealt with under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936. Many properties were improved by the owners, either voluntarily or following informal action by the Council, and 24 properties were reconditioned and brought up to a modern standard by means of improvement grants. Only one application for a certificate of disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 was received and granted, and it appears that owners generally

have not exercised the power to increase rents under this Act, presumably because many properties cannot, without much expenditure, reach the standard of repair and amenity required by this Act.

The Council's estimate of the problem in its district for the demolition or possible repair of sub-standard houses as required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 was forwarded to the Minister within the time required under the Act. The Council propose to deal with at least 210 in the first five years, out of an estimated total of 299 sub-standard houses, and it is intended to continue the use of the procedure laid down in Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, rather than employ the Slum Clearance procedure.

Progress made in the provision of new houses and the repair or demolition of sub-standard houses up to date, is shewn below :

(1) Provision of new Housing Accommodation						
(a) PERMANENT HOUSES						
	Number of houses erected by Council pre-war	...	...	...	...	719
	Number of houses erected by Council post-war	...	...	...	...	930
	Number of houses completed during 1955	...	...	...	...	101
	Number of houses erected by private enterprise post-war	...	...	...	...	112
	Number of houses erected by private enterprise in 1955	...	...	...	...	26
	Number of houses under construction at 31/12/55	...	...	...	...	58
(b) TEMPORARY HOUSES						
	Number completed as at 31/12/55	...	...	...	...	30
(2) Unfit houses						
	Number of unfit houses dealt with under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, post-war to 31/12/55	...	...	...	...	115
	Number of unfit houses in Clearance Orders made post-war	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil.</i>
	Houses in pre-war Clearance Orders demolished since 1945	...	...	...	...	162
	Houses in pre-war Clearance Orders still occupied	...	...	...	...	49
	Houses under pre-war Demolition Orders demolished since 1945	...	...	...	...	18
	Houses under pre-war Demolition Orders awaiting demolition	...	...	...	...	9
(3) Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949						
	Applications received	...	...	...	...	90
	Applications rejected	...	...	...	...	5
	Applications approved	...	...	...	...	75
	Applications under consideration	...	...	...	...	6
	Applications withdrawn after approval	...	...	...	...	4

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply—The number of distributors with retail dairy premises in the district as on December 31st, 1955, was nine. Only two of these distributors now bottle milk on their own premises, and in both cases the milk is tuberculin tested. A few of the producer-retailers in the district sell either from a can, or the consumer calls at the premises with his own jug. It is expected that the district will soon be included in a “ specified area ”, and thereafter all milk will be pasteurized and bottled on the wholesaler's premises before delivery to the distributor, or the milk will be tuberculin tested, bottled and capped in the usual manner. Premises distributing only pasteurized and sterilized milk, of whatever grade,

nowadays simply require suitable storage for the bottled milk, as bottle washing has been entirely eliminated.

Distributors' licences in force in the district during 1955 were as follows :

Pasteurized and Sterilized Milk Regulations, 1949				
No. of licences for sale of pasteurized milk.	...	...	...	8
No. of licences for sale of sterilized milk	...	...	...	2

Raw Milk Regulations, 1949				
No. of licences for bottling and sale of tuberculin tested milk				9

In addition the following supplementary licences have been issued to dealers selling milk in the district, but having their premises outside the area :

Pasteurized and Sterilized Milk Regulations, 1949				
No. of licences for sale of pasteurized milk	...	...	...	6

Raw Milk Regulations, 1949				
No. of licences for sale of tuberculin tested milk	...	...	...	3

Bottled milk sold in the district comprised the following grades : Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin tested Pasteurized, Tuberculin Tested Pasteurized (Channel Island) and Sterilized.

46 samples of milk were taken in the district and submitted for analysis within the year. Details are as follows :

Pasteurized Milk		
<i>No. submitted</i>	<i>No. passing Phosphatase test</i>	<i>No. passing Methylene Blue test</i>
29	29	28

This indicated that all the milk tested had been satisfactorily pasteurized, but in one case the milk had been contaminated after pasteurization and before delivery to the consumer. With regard to the latter, complaints were received of the curdling of the milk in the bottle, and it was therefore not surprising that the sample failed the methylene blue test. The pasteurizing plant concerned was situated in another district, and the appropriate authority was informed accordingly.

Tuberculin Tested (Raw Milk)	
<i>No. submitted</i>	<i>No. passing Methylene Blue test</i>
17	16

Here again one sample failed the " Cleanliness " test, and appropriate action was taken.

Four samples of tuberculin tested milk were also submitted for guinea pig inoculation, and all were returned as free from tuberculosis. A number of washed bottles were also submitted for analysis, and all were proved to have been satisfactorily cleansed.

Food Premises—The number and type of such premises in the district are as follows :

Village and general stores	...	...	...	...	43
Grocers' shops	...	...	...	...	5
Greengrocers' and fruit shops	...	...	...	...	5
Fishmongers' shops	...	...	...	...	2
Travelling fishmongers	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	10
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	2
Bread and confectioners' shops	...	...	...	...	6
Cafés	...	...	...	...	6

Transport Cafés (with sleeping accommodation)	...	3
Transport Cafés (without sleeping accommodation)	...	2
Cooked meat manufacturers	... ..	2
Hotels with catering facilities	... ..	9
Butchers' shops	... ..	13

Occupiers of all these premises have had their attention drawn to the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956, particularly to the new requirements with regard to wrapping of open food and provision of amenities, etc. Each occupier is also being supplied with a suitable notice which the Regulations require to be displayed in toilets. Inspections of the premises in the light of the new legislation are being carried out, and some informal notices have already been served. It is gratifying to note that in a few cases the owners of food premises have actually approached the department without prompting for advice on re-equipping their premises to comply with the Regulations.

Meat Inspection—As stated in my previous report, six private slaughterhouses are in use in the district, in addition to that at the Bacon Factory. Post mortem examination of all animals slaughtered is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and his assistant. It will be appreciated from the subsequent table that meat inspection itself takes up a considerable portion of the time given to public health duties as a whole. The inspector has to attend at actual time of slaughter whenever possible, and in any case he has only a limited time in which to carry out his inspection. This involves frequent daily overtime at the Bacon Factory and evening and week-end work at the private slaughterhouses. Fortunately casualty slaughtering is not frequent, but a number of cases have been dealt with. Up to the end of 1955 no complaints could be made against the occupier of any slaughterhouse, as each was well maintained and managed. There was a substantial increase in the number of each kind of animal slaughtered over the number in 1954. The actual increases were as follows : cattle (including cows), 112, calves, 9, sheep and lambs, 473, pigs, 3,364.

Condemned Food—The only large quantity of condemned material is that resulting from the Bacon Factory, when it is first treated in the Company's digesters, and the residue buried. Condemned meat from private slaughterhouses is stained and collected by an approved dealer. Other condemned foods are removed by the Sanitary Inspector, who disposes of them by burial on the Council's refuse tip.

Licensed Premises—The number of on-licence premises in the district is 56. The sanitary accommodation to a further two of these premises was modernized during the year. 38 of these premises are now provided with modern sanitary conveniences ; and glass washing facilities, complying with Section 13, Foods and Drugs Act, 1938, are now fitted in 46 of the houses.

Ice-Cream—45 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream under Section 14, Foods and Drugs Act, 1938. All the ice-cream sold from these premises is pre-packed, and is prepared by one of the two leading national producers. Each of these premises is equipped with a thermostatically controlled refrigerating cabinet, complying with the Ice-cream (Heating Treatment) Regulations, 1947. Four samples of ice-cream submitted for bacteriological tests for cleanliness, were graded as satisfactory.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Smallpox—No cases notified.

Vaccination—The number of infants under one year who were primarily vaccinated totalled 76, and for other ages, 28. The number re-vaccinated (all ages) was 3.

Scarlet Fever—7 cases were notified as compared with 15 in 1954. None were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths recorded.

Puerperal Pyrexia—No cases were notified.

Pneumonia—13 cases of acute primary pneumonia or acute influenzal pneumonia were notified as against 11 in both 1953 and 1954. “Pneumonia” in all forms was the certified cause of death in 10 cases. These deaths are not necessarily those of patients who were notified.

Erysipelas—No cases were notified.

Measles—129 cases of measles were notified as against nil cases in 1954. There were no deaths recorded.

Whooping Cough—A total of 35 cases were notified as against 48 in 1954, with no deaths recorded.

Anterior Poliomyelitis—Two cases were notified as “paralytic”, but the diagnosis in one case was not confirmed.

Diphtheria—No cases were notified.

Food Poisoning—14 cases were notified, but 6 cases were confirmed as Dysentery.

Enteric Fever—No cases were notified.

Tuberculosis—8 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (3 males, 5 females) were notified as compared with 5 in 1954. One male non-pulmonary case was notified. There was one death from this disease during 1955. At the end of the year 69 persons in the district were known to be suffering from tuberculosis (55 pulmonary, 14 non-pulmonary).

The number of deaths, together with the crude rate during the quinquennium 1951-1955 and for the administrative county, are as follows :

		Tuberculosis Mortality				
		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Towcester R.D.	...	0.343(5*)	0.000(0*)	0.131(2*)	0.070(1*)	0.069(1*)
Administrative County		0.260	0.250	0.180	0.120	0.090

* Actual number of deaths

Mass Radiography Service
No. 1 Unit. Oxford Regional Hospital Board
 PLESSEY CO. LTD

Special Request Survey.
 12th May, 1955

Held at Plessey Co. Ltd., Woodburcote Way,
 Towcester, Northants.

Percentage Response : 80%

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
SUMMARY OF WORK			
No. of miniatures taken	210	250	460
No. of large films taken	13	11	24
No. recalled for clinical examination	5	1	6
No. referred to chest clinic	3	—	3
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	139	149	288
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	71	101	172

RESULTS OF CASES REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC

Tuberculosis :

Active pulmonary tuberculosis requiring immediate treatment	1	—	1
This was a newly discovered case ; he did not have a positive sputum ; he had not been previously examined by M.M.R.			
Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis, occasional supervision only needed	1	—	1
<i>Non-Tuberculous Conditions</i>			
Intrathoracic malignant tumour	1	—	1
	3	—	3

RESULTS OF CASES CLINICALLY EXAMINED BY THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR BUT NOT REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC

Bullous emphysema	1	—	1
Hypertension	—	1	1
	1	1	2
Normal	1	—	1

Diphtheria Immunization—Immunization figures showing the number of children who had completed a full course of immunization at any time up to December 31st, 1955.

<i>Age at 31/12/55 i.e., born in year</i>	<i>Under 1 1955</i>	<i>1 1954</i>	<i>2 1953</i>	<i>3 1952</i>	<i>4 1951</i>	<i>5-9 1946 1950</i>	<i>10-14 1941 1945</i>	<i>Total under 15</i>
Number immunized	18	133	134	140	143	826	894	2288

SECTION G.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1955.

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1955

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	9	0	9
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	0	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	...	...	8	7	15
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	14	23	37
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	14	8	22
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	17	12	29
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	2	10
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	5	9
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES						95	77	172

TABLE NO. 2.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Estimated population	Births		Deaths			
		No.	Rate	Under one year		All ages	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1919	*9,387 †9,011	156	16.61	7	44.87	158	17.53
1920	9,370	259	27.64	15	57.90	146	15.58
\$1921	9,920	211	21.27	21	99.52	131	13.20
1922	9,937	172	17.30	9	52.32	136	13.68
1923	9,944	171	17.19	9	52.63	120	12.06
1924	10,000	162	16.20	9	55.50	115	11.50
1925	9,959	150	15.06	8	53.33	123	12.35
1926	9,870	152	15.40	5	32.89	116	11.75
1927	9,887	144	14.56	8	55.55	115	11.63
1928	9,502	134	14.10	4	29.85	120	12.63
1929	9,398	139	14.79	6	43.16	138	14.68
1930	9,384	115	12.25	8	69.56	129	13.74
\$1931	9,324	131	14.04	7	53.43	104	11.11
1932	9,324	118	12.65	0	00.00	114	12.22
1933	9,271	147	15.85	4	27.21	96	10.35
1934	9,200	114	12.39	5	43.80	132	14.34
1935	‡13,155	180	13.67	7	38.88	181	13.75
1936	13,040	210	16.10	10	47.60	165	12.60
1937	12,900	170	13.20	9	52.90	197	12.30
1938	12,860	152	11.80	4	26.30	182	14.20
1939	*12,930 †12,020	184	14.20	5	27.11	170	13.06
1940	13,190	184	13.90	7	36.95	219	16.55
1941	14,750	203	13.80	14	68.96	211	14.31
1942	14,050	244	17.40	12	49.18	147	10.47
1943	13,690	254	18.55	14	55.11	193	14.23
1944	13,680	242	17.67	8	33.01	192	14.04
1945	13,500	228	16.14	5	22.80	174	12.88
1946	13,490	273	20.24	13	47.25	178	13.19
1947	13,750	283	20.58	8	28.19	178	12.04
1948	13,910	238	17.11	13	54.62	184	13.23
1949	14,300	255	17.38	8	31.37	179	12.59
1950	14,470	217	15.00	7	32.25	197	13.61
\$1951	14,540	230	15.73	11	47.82	197	13.47
1952	14,490	219	15.1	7	31.9	171	11.8
1953	14,410	241	16.7	2	12.4	144	9.9
1954	14,440	230	15.9	7	30.4	181	12.5
1955	14,490	208	14.3	3	14.4	172	11.8

* Population for calculation of birth rates.

† Population for calculation of death rates.

‡ Potterspury R.D. added to district.

\$ Census years.

TABLE NO. 3

WATER SUPPLY—INFORMATION RELATING TO PIPED SUPPLIES

<i>Name of Undertaking</i>	<i>Parishes in area of supply</i>	<i>Population in area</i>	<i>Population served</i>	
			<i>Water laid on</i>	<i>Stand-pipes</i>
Regional Scheme	Abthorpe	247	60	176
Regional Scheme	Blakesley	349	232	118
Regional Scheme	Blisworth	761	659	103
Regional Scheme	Bradden	92	70	—
Regional Scheme	Cold Higham and Grimscote	219	133	80
Cosgrove and Deanshanger	Cosgrove, Old Stratford and Deanshanger	2119	1989	109
Gayton	Gayton	388	358	18
Regional Scheme	Greens Norton	743	709	25
Regional Scheme	Lichborough	247	116	119
Regional Scheme	Maidford	170	21	124
Regional Scheme	Pattishall, etc.	720	350	—
Regional Scheme	Paulerspury	849	729	113
Regional Scheme	Potterspury	855	612	178
Regional Scheme	Shutlanger	273	170	—
Regional Scheme	Silverstone	1052	1020	—
Regional Scheme	Slapton	83	49	32
Regional Scheme	Stoke Bruerne	229	82	42
Regional Scheme	Towcester	2441	2301	24
Regional Scheme	Wappenham	280	178	—
Regional Scheme	Weston and Weedon ...	323	173	—
Regional Scheme	Whittlebury	342	301	—
Regional Scheme	Wicken	304	106	178
Regional Scheme	Woodend	189	104	—
Yardley Gobion	Yardley Gobion	588	384	124

TABLE No. 4

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. taken</i>		<i>Results</i>			
	<i>Private</i>	<i>Public</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Sus- picious</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Faecal pollution present</i>
Abthorpe	—	13	11	—	2	—
Cosgrove	1	—	—	1	—	—
Deanshanger ...	—	3	2	—	1	—
Greens Norton ...	—	4	4	—	—	—
Old Stratford ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Pattishall	1	3	3	—	1	1
Paulerspury ...	—	3	2	1	—	—
Silverstone	—	5	5	—	—	—
Stoke Bruerne ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Towcester	3	6	6	1	2	1
Wappenham ...	1	—	—	—	1	1
Whittlebury ...	—	2	2	—	—	—
Wicken	—	8	6	—	2	—
Yardley Gobion ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	52	46	3	9	3

TABLE No. 5

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	<i>Type of Property</i>				
	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>				<i>Agri- cultural</i>
	<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)</i>	<i>All other (including Business Premises)</i>	<i>Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)</i>	
Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	150	5158	550	5858	260
Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	5	50	29	84	12
(b) Survey under the Act	145	376	74	595	24
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	640	328	968	46
Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	480	870	434	1784	85
Number of properties inspected in Section 2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats : Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	134	29	19	182	11
(b) Mice : Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	10	5	15	—
Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Section 4)	134	39	24	197	11
Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	200	52	28	280	15
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 6

CARCASES AND OFFAL
INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	183	14	10	771	19,864	<i>Nil.</i>
Number inspected	183	14	10	771	19,864	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci—						
Whole carcasses condemned	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	3	—
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned ...	7	5	<i>Nil.</i>	12	283	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.8	35.6	<i>Nil.</i>	1.5	1.4	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	16	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	4	<i>Nil.</i>	—	596	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	4.9	28.9	<i>Nil.</i>	—	3.6	—
Cysticercosis—						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 7

FOOD SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED

Cheese	51 lbs.
Corned Beef	12 lbs.
Tinned Meat	27 lbs.
Meat	4 tons 5 cwts. 17 lbs.

TABLE No. 8.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1955

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	7
Pneumonia ...	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	13
Measles	3	—	—	2	6	25	40	34	4	4	6	5	129
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	10	10	11	2	—	—	—	35
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	2	1	—	1	8
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6
TOTALS ...	8	4	2	3	7	37	55	45	16	5	11	6	199

TABLE No. 9.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1955.

<i>Disease</i>	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65	65+	All Ages
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	—	—	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	13
Measles	6	16	9	16	66	14	—	—	2	—	—	—	129
Whooping Cough	2	7	3	1	19	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	35
Food Poisoning ...	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	2	—	—	8
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
TOTALS ...	8	25	13	17	96	19	3	4	4	6	1	3	199

TABLE No. 10

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis), 1955
INDIVIDUAL PARISHES

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Food Poisoning</i>	<i>Polio-myelitis</i>	<i>Dysentery</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Alderton	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Bradden	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	7
Blakesley	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	5
Blisworth	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Cold Higham	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cosgrove	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3
Deanshanger	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
Easton Neston	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Fosters Booth	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gayton	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Grafton Regis	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	6
Greens Norton	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	4
Litchborough	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	7
Maidford	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Old Stratford	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	5
Pattishall	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	7
Paulerspury	2	2	6	4	—	—	—	14
Potterspury	3	1	2	—	—	1	—	7
Silverstone	1	1	31	—	1	—	—	34
Towcester	—	1	7	1	1	—	—	10
Weston and Weedon	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Whittlebury	1	—	4	3	—	—	—	8
Yardley Gobion	—	—	26	23	—	—	—	49
TOTALS	7	13	129	35	8	1	6	199

TABLE NO. 11.

**Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factory Act, 1937,
for the year 1955
PART I OF THE ACT**

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector) :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupier Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	68	54	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises) ...	9	35	—	—
TOTAL	84	96	2	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases of which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	—	—

